MEMORANDUM

TO: PERRY BROWN, PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FROM: SUSAN HARPER-WHALEN, ASSOCIATE DEAN, PHYLLIS J.
WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES

SUBJECT: EARLY CHILDHOOD MINOR PROPOSAL – MISSING SIGNATURE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2014

I wanted to provide a brief note regarding the missing signature of the Human and Family Development Minor Co-Chairs. The full proposal was presented to the Co-Chair Meg Traci on September 17, 2014. Follow up contact was made on September 22, but there has been no response since that date.

As clarified in the attached email exchange, the proposed minor in early childhood education is intended to meet work force demands specifically for the preparation of early childhood teachers. It is designed to meet the state and national standards for the preparation of early childhood teachers and will only be available to students enrolled in elementary education. The degree serves an entirely separate purpose from the HFD option in early childhood which is designed to “supplement the knowledge base of students by providing a human and family development specialty orientation to their fields of major interest.”

The proposed C&I minor in early childhood education, focused on pedagogy and the preparation of teachers, will enhance courses offerings available to students in the HFD minor. However, the mission and design of the HFD minor does not meet the specific needs of a teacher preparation program in the field of early childhood education.
Hello Meg and Paul,

I'm just checking in to make sure you got this email and to see if you had any questions. I hope you both had a lovely weekend.

Kristin

Kristin Dahl Horejsi
Early Childhood Clinical Specialist, Co-Director: Outreach Learning and Belonging (LAB) Pre-School Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences
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From: Horejsi, Kristin
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 10:42 PM
To: Traci, Meg; Silverman, Paul S
Subject: RE: EC Proposals

Dear Meg and Paul,

Thank you for taking the time to review all of this!

I am sorry that this comes to you with short notice. In all honesty, we are seizing the moment with what is happening at the state level right now and it's happening with rapid speed!

Some history: Over the summer Dr. Julie Bullard of UM Western, myself and several C&I faculty began work on an Early Childhood Education Master’s proposal. We've been in touch with MSU throughout the process and have had their support to create this online M. Ed in which students can select several courses from either campus depending upon area of interest.

Early on we did have conversations regarding a minor, but weren't quite sure it was the direction we should go in right away. But, just this month (September) we've had word that OPI is considering new Pre-K to 3rd grade teacher licensure. With this exciting news we decided it was indeed important to seek a minor in Early Childhood Education simultaneously with the M. Ed.

We feel that a minor in Early Childhood Education most specifically geared toward Elementary Education students can be an avenue towards the eventual Pre-K to 3rd grade teaching license. Our proposed ECE minor will focus on pedagogy and aligns with state and national teaching standards.
We DO NOT wish to replace the HFD Early Childhood Development minor with this new minor. We see both as being essential options for University of Montana students. I especially feel that the developmental focus within in the HFD core needs to remain and it is incredibly valuable. Because of the state and national early childhood education standards required for licensure, however, we must have an option that is geared towards pedagogy.

The minor is really a re-packaging of what we already have in C&I and what we are proposing for the M Ed. There are just two new (currently untaught) classes that we are proposing. Please see the attached document. We believe that the two minors and the course options will complement one another.

You can imagine our rush in getting this all together. I truly apologize for not contacting you both sooner. The whole process has been a learning experience for each of us!

Julie Bullard and I are presenting the proposed programs at the ECHEC tomorrow. So far we've had full support from the group. Our C&I faculty voted unanimously last Friday to move forward with it. Thank you for your enthusiasm and questions. I've learned so much through this and your questions have provided even more insight.

If you have more questions let me know. Please also let me know who would be willing to sign, Meg or Paul. It needs to be one or the other, not both.
Again, I apologize for the rush!

Warmly,
Kristin

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From: Traci, Meg
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Horejsi, Kristin; Silverman, Paul S
Subject: FW: EC Proposals

Hi Kristin,

I'm cc-ing Paul to pull him into the loop. From your voice-mail, it sounds like you would like our review of the attached materials as Co-Chairs of the HFD Minor.

I understand that you are trying to identify a deadline for our feedback/signature. Also, you mentioned that we may have time to present the proposal to the HFD Minor Faculty Committee, but Paul and I may need to make a decision about signing the attached Level II proposal form before coordinating a full committee meeting is possible. I'll talk with Paul about options for eliciting input from the HFD Minor Faculty Committee if there is not enough time for a HFD Committee meeting. In communicating with the Committee, I anticipate that it will be important to have a framework for describing why the Committee wasn't consulted sooner. Also, has UM involved MSU in developing the proposal? Please advise.

This is an exciting initiative and matches well with needs in the state. Congratulations.
Best regards,
Meg

---Original Message-----
From: Horejsi, Kristin
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 5:54 PM
To: Traci, Meg
Subject: EC Proposals

Meg! Thank you for getting back to me. Attached you will find probably more than you want to know! I do want to draw your attention to the EC Minor Proposal and Syllabi document. You'll want to specifically read the difference between the HFD minor and the proposed early Childhood Education minor explained in item C on page 3 of the EC Minor Proposal and Syllabi.

I'm hoping we can get together soon. I'd need your or Paul's signature. I'm pretty flexible tomorrow morning (Tuesday). Unfortunately, I'm in Helena on Friday.

Let me know if you have any questions about this proposal.
Thank you!
Kristin

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